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REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on February 9, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 20-24 were allowed. Claims 1-8, 11 and 18 were rejected. Claims 9, 10, 12-17 and 19 were objected to. With this Amendment, claims 1-8, 11, 18 and 19 are canceled. Claims 9, 12 and 20-22 are amended, and claims 9, 10, 12-17 and 20-24 are presented for consideration and allowance.

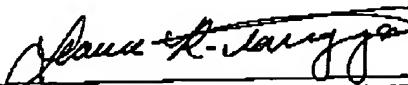
In the Office Action, claims 20-24 were allowed and claims 9, 10, 12-17 and 19 were objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The indication of allowed claims and allowable subject matter is appreciated. With this Amendment, allowed claims 20-22 are amended to correct minor antecedent basis informalities, but are not substantively amended in view of any prior art.

With this Amendment, objected to claim 9 is amended into independent form to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 2, 6 and 8. Objected to claim 12 is amended into independent form to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 2, 6 and 11. Therefore, now independent claims 9 and 12, along with dependent claims 10 and 13-17 are believed to be in condition for allowance along with allowed claims 20-24. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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